Representation from A.I.D. Employees Union, Calcutta

*214. SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has received any representation from the A.I.D. Employees Union, Calcutta, forwarded by the leader of the C.P.I.(M) Group in Parliament, regarding the question of payment of gratuity to the employees of the three companies represented by the said Unions; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI DHARMAVIR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 at present provides for payment of gratuity only for the period during which an employee has been drawing wages within the specified wage limit, i.e. Rs. 1600|- per month. The employees drawing wages exceeding Rs. 1600|- per month are not, therefore, legally entitled to gratuity for the period of service after their wages exceed Rs. 1600|- per month. There can, therefore, be no question of payment of gratuity for the entire period of service in such cases.

Collapse of Power System in Delhi and four Northern States

*215. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:
SHRI J. P. GOYAL:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a major disturbance in the Northern power grid on the night of 19th July, 1984;

(b) if so, whether due to this disturbance there was a total collapse of the power system in the Capital and in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Rajasthan;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Indraprastha and Badarpur power plants had to be shut down;

(d) if so, what were the causes of the disturbance in the Northern Grid;

(e) whether any sabotage is suspected behind this disturbance; and

(f) what measures have been taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI SHIV SHANKAR): (a) to (f) There was a major system disturbance on 19-7-1984 in the Northern Grid. The disturbance caused total power failure in Delhi and in parts of Haryana, Rajasthan, Western U.P. and Punjab. As a result of the system disturbance all the running units at Badarpur and IP Stations had tripped. Power supply was restored by synchronising the first units of IP and Badarpur stations by availing start-up supply from Bhakra and U.P. respectively.

A number of technical issues have to be sorted out before any conclusion can be reached regarding the circumstances under which the power failure occurred. Government have, therefore, appointed on the 20th July, 1984, a high level Enquiry Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri A. N. Singh, Chairman, Central Electricity Authority to investigate and identify the causes of the system disturbance and to suggest remedial measures to avoid recurrence of such incidents. The circumstances in which the power failure occurred on 19th July, 1984, do not *prima facie* indicate sabotage.

Special allowance to AIR/TV staff posted in North Eastern States

*216. SHRIMATI RODA MISTRY:
SHRI S. W. DHABE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gazetted staff of All India Radio and Delhi Doordar-